

**Town of Essex
Conservation Commission**

**Minutes
Thursday, May 10, 7:30 p.m.
Essex Town Hall**

The Essex Conservation Commission conducted their regularly scheduled meeting on May 10, 2012 in Room B of the Essex Town Hall. Present: Chair, Kay Tucker, Doug Demarest, Richard Helmecki, Pam Bernardini, Jeff Lovelace, and alternate and Ron Skinner who was seated for MaryAnn Pleva. Also in attendance, Stella Beaudoin, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Ms. Tucker stated that a representative from the firm of Robinson & Cole is here to present at this evening's meeting on behalf of new subdivision on Ingham Hill Road.

Motion made by Jeff Lovelace to adjust the agenda to accommodate the presentation from Robinson and Cole LLP regarding the subdivision application on Ingham Hill Road, Map 93 Lot 1 for a 6-lot open space subdivision. The presentation and discussion will be limited to 15 minutes.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously 6/0/0.

Michelle Maresca of Robinson Cole, LLC presented on behalf of River Sound Development. Ms. Maresca stated that the 6-lot subdivision proposal on Ingham Hill Road will be heard at the June 14, 2012 Essex Planning Commission meeting. Ms. Maresca stated that she was referred to the Conservation Commission by the Essex IWWC and noted that she wished to discuss the issues as outlined her letter dated May 10, 2012 which was accompanied by The CT River Coastal Conservation District (CRCCD) project assessment which includes erosion and sedimentation controls, habitat analysis, etc. The CRCCD report is dated April 24, 2012.

This subdivision proposal is comprised of a 36-acre parcel. 16.45 acres will be deeded to the Essex Land Trust of which 16 acres are upland and 4 acres are wetlands. Ms. Maresca stated that she is here to discuss how the open space parcel should be handled and is seeking the Commission's feedback. Ms. Maresca noted that the open space land will be deeded to the Essex Land Trust as they are a private corporation set up with stewardship capabilities and the Land Trust is familiar with the process and maintenance of the land. Ms. Maresca stated that the entire parcel of the previously proposed subdivision which was known as The Preserve, is comprised of 1,000 acres and encompasses the towns of Old Saybrook, Westbrook and Essex.

Attorney Charles Rothenberger from the CT Fund for the Environment (CFE) presented. Mr. Rothenberger stated that Joseph Budrow, Essex WEO/ZEO requested a private analysis of the property on Ingham Hill Road. This project assessment was completed by the CRCCD. Mr. Rothenberger stated that there are currently two active proposals;

one in Essex and one in Old Saybrook which is comprised of 900 acres and includes a golf course. There is currently an appeal pending against the Old Saybrook Planning Commission's approval of the 900 acre proposal. The Old Saybrook IWWC has denied this application.

Ms. Tucker indicated that the Commission will review the materials and Ms. Maresca will return next month at the regularly scheduled Conservation Commission meeting with a presentation and a site plan. The Conservation Commission has no jurisdiction over the open space that will be deeded to the Essex Land Trust and that entity makes their own rules and recommendations. It was suggested that the Conservation Commission write a letter requesting public access as a part of the Essex subdivision approval.

Review and Approve April Meeting Minutes

The following changes were made and noted in italics:

Page 1: Under Call to Order; Rich *Helmecki*

Page 2: "Doug Demarest continued to *pursue*

Page 2: "Margo *Burns*

Page 2: "no *clean up of trees was needed*"

Page 3: "Members scheduled a clean-up and *will meet at the site*"

Page 4: Under the Motion; "Ms. Malan proposed "*to change the day*"

Motion made by Doug Demarest to approve the April 2012 meeting Minutes.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously 6/0/0.

Old Business

Projects and Expenditures for FYE 2011-2012

Ms. Tucker reported the following:

- \$8,974 is left remaining in the Conservation Commission Budget

- \$3,105 will be encumbered for All Habitat Services

- \$5,824 is the balance left remaining after the All Habitat bill is paid

- \$ 700 will be encumbered for Viney Hill Brook Park and Bushy Hill Park Maps

- \$ 100 will be encumbered for Don Carlson to complete the Oak Ledge survey

- \$ 100 will be encumbered for bridge repair supplies

- \$1,000 will be encumbered for Mud River Services summer clean up

Mr. Lovelace indicated that he received a printing quote on the maps. Members agreed to have the maps for Viney Hill Brook Park to have one side with color and the back side will be printed in black and white on 80 lb recycled paper at a cost of \$351 for 500 maps which includes a \$75 set up fee. The Bushy Hill Park maps will be printed in black and white on 80 lb recycled paper at a cost of \$275 for 500 maps which includes the \$75 set up fee. A revision 2012 date will be included on both of the maps.

Trail Reports

Mr. Helmecki reported that he replaces three slats in three of the bridges in Bushy Hill Park. Mr. Kaufmann weed-wacked.

Mr. Lovelace reported that he walked Viney Hill Brook Park. The pond was low, however the trails looked to be in good order.

Inventory

Ms. Tucker previously reported that the Conservation Commission is looking for an intern to do an inventory of the conservation easements. Ms. Tucker was informed that a job description must be posted internally for three weeks and then posted on the Town's website for three days. This position is a temporary, seasonal position.

Motion made by Pam Bernardini to post the job description for someone to do an inventory of the conservation easements and to hire someone as soon as possible. Kay Tucker will conduct the interviews and make the selection.

Motion seconded by Doug Demarest and passed unanimously.

Other

Mr. Demarest stated that he had asked the Boy Scouts to clean up Viney Hill Brook Park. Fifteen Boy Scouts volunteered and cleaned up the trails. Mr. Demarest reported that the Scouts enjoyed the task and asked to be considered for future projects.

Mr. Skinner contacted Al Macgregor and they will put together a work party to help build the kiosk.

Mr. Helmecki suggested that the Eagle Scouts might wish to blaze a trail beginning at the Bushy Hill Park entrance from Winthrop Hill Road.

Mr. Lovelace reported that he attended the April 2012 Planning Commission meeting and at that meeting read into the record the letter from the Conservation Commission addressing open space and public access designation for the Foxboro Road subdivision proposal.

Adjournment

Motion made by Doug Demarest to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Pam Bernardini and passed unanimously 6/0/0

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Conservation Commission will be conducted on June 14, 2012